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Selection of site for Salem College.

*235 Q.—Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has visited Salem to settle the dispute of Salem College site;

(b) whether deputations waited upon him about this;

(c) whether he visited the proposed sites; and

(d) what is the result of his visit?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) Yes.

(d) The question is under consideration.

Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur:—"May I know from the hon. Minister whether he knows for how long the question of acquisition of a site for the building of the college has been pending?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"It has not been pending very long before the present Government, at any rate; but I may say for the information of the hon. Member that orders are under issue now."

Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur:—"Does the hon. Minister know the financial position of the Salem municipality?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"The financial position of the municipality is not particularly prosperous, as far as I know."

Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur:—"Does the hon. Minister know that they have borrowed money from the Government and have been paying interest?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Yes, they have."

Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur:—"May I know whether the hon. Minister wired to the Collector to stop further proceedings in respect of the college building?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Yes."

Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur:—"May I know how long the Government will take to issue orders on the matter?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Orders are now under issue and they may go to those concerned in a few days."

Mr A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know what is the effect of the order, Sir?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"If my hon. Friend's question is confined only to the acquisition of the site for the college, the order is that the acquisition may be proceeded with."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Is the site selected, Sir?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"My previous answer means that the site has been selected and approved and that acquisition is going on."

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Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"May I know what is stated in the order?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"The order is to this effect: There were two sites in question. Both my hon. Friend, the Chief Minister and myself agreed that the high school building requires extension and might be put up on the old hostel site and the college built in the newly acquired site."

Mr. K. A. Nachiappa Gounder :—"May I know whether it is a fact that the Government issued a ban prohibiting the Salem Municipal Council from proceeding with the acquisition?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"No."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—"May I know whether it is the Maravaneri site that has been selected or any other site?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"Yes, it is the Maravaneri site that is being acquired and the acquisition has been almost completed."

Mr. K. A. Nachiappa Gounder :—"May I know the extent of the old site?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"Eleven acres."

Mr. K. A. Nachiappa Gounder :—"May I know whether this is enough for high school purposes?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"We think it would be enough."

Enquiry into the deaths in London Mission Boarding House, Erode.

*236 Q.—Mr. V. P. Narayanan Nambiyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government are aware of the numerous sudden deaths in the London Mission Boarding House, Erode, on the 3rd or 4th of December 1930;

(b) what were the reasons for the deaths; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to prevent similar accidents?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) The deaths are reported to be due to cholera. It has not been possible for the Health Department to trace the actual source of infection. That department has, however, made suggestions to the Mission authorities for the improvement of the sanitary arrangements of the institution and its surroundings.

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"May I know from the hon. Minister how many deaths occurred in the institution on the 3rd and 4th December 1930?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—"I cannot give the exact number off-hand, but there were a number of deaths."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"Did the Government make any attempt to ascertain the cause of the deaths?"